$1300 Per Family . . . .

Nearly $560,000.00 Paid Ute Indian Tribe From Oil Lease

Approximately $560,000 was being distributed today among 1724 members of the Ute Indian Tribe, which amounts ta $325 per capita. Payments were being made through the Commercial Bank of Utah, Roosevelt office, by members of the Tribal committee and the Uintah-Ouray Indian agency officials.

According to Francis McKinley, public relations director for the tribe, the money being paid to the Indians today is a part of the accumulated revenue that has come from oil and mineral leases on Indian lands. Last June the tribe received $200 per capita from this same fund. To date this amounts to approximately two-thirds of the earnings during the current year.

It's interesting when we realize that a people who during their normal lifetime were an impoverished race, have, during the past year, suddenly become an independent group with an average family income of approximately $4200. This is based on an average of four per family. Today's payment averages about $1300 per family.

Last September, tribal members received a $525 payment, which came from interest off the Colorado Judgment, which allowed Indians $17,000,000. Approximately $4 million has been spent or obligated out of this fund.

"Most of the Indian people have used their money wisely—they have raised their standard of living by building homes, buying machinery for their farms, buying cattle and equipping their homes with furniture and appliances, which makes us who are working with them very happy," Mr. McKinley said today.

The future looks pleasant and prosperous for the Ute tribe in this part of the country—at least so long as oil activity is as encouraging as it is.